

# As Level Entry Policy at Monkseaton High School

## Changes to Academic A Levels and As levels explained...

You may be aware that the process of introducing new reformed, linear, GCE A and AS Level examinations began in September 2015. This was introduced by the Government. Linear exams mean that these are intended to be courses that are studied for a full two years and assessed at the end of the course by final exams. Coursework content no longer contributes to final grades awarded. Only Art and Design and Product Design will have a coursework component.

AS qualifications no longer contribute towards the A2 course or final grade and many schools are no longer offering AS levels to students.

For students beginning their courses in September 2016 the only subjects which will remain as modular courses (in which the AS Level is an integral part of the A Level qualification) will be product design and mathematics.

Based on our experience this year, evidence of how other schools are approaching the new system and information that universities will be placing the emphasis on predicted A Level grades, personal statements and the school's reference rather than on AS Level grades, we have decided to change our examination entry policy. The new policy is outlined below.

## Monkseaton High School AS Level Entry Policy from 2015

Students select either three or four A Level courses at the beginning of year 12, with the intention of carrying on a minimum of three courses to full A Level. When examination entries are made in February of Year 12, students will be entered for AS examinations in courses which they are not considering continuing into Year 13, or where a decision is made that external examination data would be useful to that student.

These decisions will be made on a student by student basis, and so students in year 12 may sit one, more than one, or no AS examinations, depending on their individual circumstances.

The reintroduction of a Year 12 Trial Examination week in the summer will mean that students will sit an internally set examination in all subjects, with appropriate feedback and target setting, to ensure their progress is monitored just as rigorously as under the old AS/A2 system. Students of maths and product design will all be entered for AS examinations at the end of year 12, as these courses are not yet decoupled, and the AS result forms part of the overall A2 grade.

## Vocational or Applied A Levels

We provide a wide range of vocational applied A Levels which are assessed over two years. These have a balance of some exam component and also project based coursework. Students who study these courses have exams at the end of year 13 or 13 and the level of the course dictates the number of units that need completing.

As a school we pride ourselves on providing vocational and academic pathways for our students and enabling them to have coursework pathways that suit their individual needs. WE do not adopt a one size fits all but consider each individual carefully. If you would like to discuss any of the above then please contact the school and will be more than happy to discuss this further.